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The Pacific

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Pilgrim Fellowship Meets Success

Despite the uncertainties and restrictions of war time, and the opening of a number of high schools on our first day, 26 churches of northern California sent 135 delegates to the annual mid-winter conference of Pilgrim Fellowship, December 28, 29, 30. Excellent facilities were provided by the host church, First Congregational Church of Oakland, and housing accommodations were arranged by Miss Mae Baudin, Director of Religious Education of that church. Rev. Verdette Walters, Conference co-ordinator of young people's work, served as Registrar.

Rev. Sidney Buckham, Director of the conference, and Ted Winslow, President of Pilgrim Fellowship, together with the Planning Committee, provided a program of real merit—inspiration, fellowship discussion and fun—geared to the spiritual needs of these days. Rev. Ralph Conard, Chaplain of the conference, led the young people in uplifting pilgrimages of worship that will not soon be forgotten. Prof. George H. Williams of Pacific School of Religion, followed these worship experiences with four challenging talks built around the theme of the conference, "Jesus, the Light of the World."

There were seven discussion groups, each with a youth leader and a resource leader. Discussion outlines were prepared by Rev. Fred Morrow. The groups all followed the same plan of discussion, drawn from three chapters of Fosdick's book, "The Manhood of the Master." Youth leaders were: Gordon Barnes, Henry Hayden, Bob Carlson, David Noss, Dick Toothaker, Dorothy Emigh, Virginia Piper.

Special addresses were given by Rev. Vere V. Loper and Rev. Holland Burr. The closing communion service, always a high moment for our mid-winter sessions, was conducted jointly by Rev. Clarence Reidenbach and Rev. Ralph Conard. The conference concluded Wednesday noon, with summary reports from the discussion groups, following the luncheon.

The recreational program was ably led by Rev. William Meyer of Fairfax. Two past-presidents were able to drop in on the conference for short visits, and were most cordially received, Joanna Wilder and Ted Nichols.

The conference was indeed a success in every way. We believe our young people went home from it strengthened in hope and faith, challenged with new vision.

CHILDREN AND THE WAR

How can we best help our children to meet the unwholesome excitement, the fears, the hatreds, the distorted ideas and prejudices, the insecurity which war and war-time influences bring?

What can the Church School do? in study groups? in worship services? in projects of helpfulness for war victims?

How can the homes not only withstand the hazards of war but grow in spiritual resources for maintaining and enriching all those values for the sake of which alone can the suffering of war be endured and justified?

These and similar questions form the emphasis for study of the Conference Religious Education Committee this year. Watch THE PACIFIC and your mail box for the Committee's findings and suggestions.

DR. MARY F. CUSHMAN

Northern California is to have a visit by the very distinguished missionary physician, Dr. Mary F. Cushman, who has given many years of service in Africa. Although having reached retirement age, she is exceedingly vigorous and has been carrying on a very strenuous program of speaking in the middle west for the last few months. Her first dates will be at Palo Alto on January 31, where she will be a guest of her cousin, well known in California, Mrs. Reed B. Cherington. Dr. Cushman's schedule is being prepared as The Pacific goes to press.

XMAS FUND BRINGS JOY

The Christmas Fund for aged ministers and wives of ministers again reached as high a total as has ever come in. In fact, the receipts made it possible to increase the Christmas gifts to the veterans of the Cross by about 25 per cent. In these times of high cost of living that indeed was a welcome surprise. Here are paragraphs of appreciation from two or three of our own Northern California family:

"Your wholly unexpected generosity brought to our minds this thought, 'Your Father knows your needs.' Yet, nevertheless, there were some tears from the good wife. As it is not manly to weep, I could not help expressing my feelings that found it almost wonderful that in a world of war and bloodshed God put it into the hearts of so many to remember those that are not fit for war or work, yet still have a value in their hearts."

"As we are hearing from some of those with whom we loved to work, twenty—thirty—yes, forty years ago, our hearts are warmed with gratitude and happy memories. You dear friends are so kind to remember us so often and generously. We thank you again and again for the Christmas gift. It was a great privilege to work in the 'Home Missionary churches' of California."

"We are so happy to know that we still have friends with kindly thoughts of us, and the assurance of such friends helps us to bear the burdens of old age."

WANTED!

Arlington Avenue Fellowship House needs a pulpit or reading desk. Any church having one that can be spared will help greatly by communicating with Mr. Herbert Dimock, 264 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley, California.

The Sebastopol church would like to have pews. If any church is planning reseating and has any that could be given away or sold, please communicate with Mr. James P. Senter, 137 Calder Avenue, Sebastopol, California.

Mid-Winter Meet

The large Mid-Winter Conference, normally held at Evanston, Illinois, will be omitted this year because of difficulties of transportation. Instead, there will be two meetings smaller in number. There will be a conference on promotional and educational work in New York, which will bring together the Joint Cabinet, the Ad Interim Committee, and the Joint Staff of the Missions Council. There will be a few women's state presidents and superintendents. The actual sessions will be held at Vassar College at Poughkeepsie. The meetings will consist entirely of planning for the future, since there will be no formal meeting of the directors of the Home Board or the Prudential Committee of the American Board.

Beginning on the 29th, the state superintendents will meet in Chicago. The very critical problem which they will face is the large number of smaller churches that are without pastors. Superintendent Gill will attend both meetings, and Mrs. Scott Haymond, president of the Federation of Congregational Women of Northern California, has been invited to New York.

FROM THE DESERT

Chaplain James D. Salmon, stationed at Rice, some distance from Indio, California, reports that they had a first-class sandstorm at the camp for Christmas. While the Christmas dinner was excellent, the storm made conditions very uncomfortable not only that day but for some days following. He is chaplain of the hospital and has been recommended for promotion.

"When the sun is out
When the moon is out
When the stars are out
The light of a man
Is in his own soul!"

(Quoted in a letter of appreciation to Dr. Hachiro Yuasa.)

Y. P. Summer Plans

Pending the election of someone to the post of Field Secretary, the Conference Board of Directors has invited Rev. Verdette Walters of Martinez to serve as co-ordinator of young people's work, and to plan in a preliminary way, with the directors which have been chosen, the young people's conferences for the summer of 1943. Thus far plans are well under way for four conferences.

The Sequoia Conference, for churches of the San Joaquin Valley, will be held June 13-19, with Rev. Arthur L. Rice of Tulare as director.

The Lakewood Conference, at the upper end of Lake Tahoe, will be held June 13-20, with Mr. George Linn of Sacramento as director.

The East Bay and West Bay churches will again join at Loma Mar, with Rev. Ralph V. Conard of Alameda as director. The dates will probably be June 20-26.

The Lokoya Conference, for churches of the Upper Bay and Redwood Empire, will be held August 8-14, with Rev. W. W. Meyer of Fairfax as the director.

There may be some readjustment of dates. There is a good deal of question as to whether the Zephyr Point conference can be held on account of the number of college age young people who will be in the service or at work. Correspondence and interviews are taking place with respect to faculty.

REIGHARD RESIGNS

Rev. Edward Reighard, for a year and a half Director of Plymouth House and of religious education and young people's work at the First Congregational Church, astonished his friends by an announcement that he had been commissioned in the United States Navy as a chaplain. His papers have been cleared with unexpected dispatch, and his work at Plymouth House closed within about a week of the original announcement. He has left for the east to attend training school, and of course does not know where he will be located. Mr. Reighard came to Berkeley in the summer of 1941 from the First Congregational Church of Littleton, Mass. In times past he had served as chaplain at Babson Institute, had been an assistant to Rev. Raymond Calkins at Cambridge, Mass., and had served in various other churches, including First Congregational Church, San Francisco; First Congregational Church of LaGrange, Ill.; and First Congregational Church of Columbus, O. During his stay in California he has carried on a vigorous program not only among students at the University, but has made Plymouth House a center for Service men. He has cooperated in the various young people's conferences and as a member of various Conference committees. His training and experience will make him one of the most valuable men that we have been able to send into the chaplaincy.

COLORED MOVIES

The beautiful motion pictures of the Japanese Relocation Center at Topaz, Utah, taken by Miss Mary Coxhead, were shown at the Young People's Midwinter Conference, and have been used in various churches. Miss Coxhead is entirely willing to respond to invitations from churches, Sunday Schools, or young people's groups, to come and show the pictures giving a brief talk about them. She is willing to give her time, but it will be only fair for the churches who use her and her pictures to take care of travel expense. She will furnish her own projector and screen.

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CONDEMNED

In Greece, one child in eight has a chance to survive. Help is now going to Greece through two safe channels—powdered milk and dehydrated potatoes purchased in Switzerland and sent to Greece, and the Greek War Relief. To date eight ships have carried foodstuffs safely to Greece, the ships being made available by Switzerland. At first only grain was carried by these ships. Now, badly needed medicines, powdered milk, and other concentrates are to be found in the shipments.

Safe delivery is made possible by the shipments being administered by a joint commission of the Swiss and Swedish members of the Red Cross. Representatives of our State Department who have been to Greece and are in touch with the situation report that the food has been effectively distributed through the International Red Cross to the Greek people.

One of two letters, the only letters which have come from Greece in many months, is especially descriptive of the desperate situation: "My beloved family: This letter goes with all my hope that it will reach you and tell you that three of us, Chris, Marie and I, are still living. I cannot talk of the others. Now that this long cold winter is over and the sun is warm on the hills, there is a little hope in our hearts . . . unfortunately there is not enough for all. . . . I write this so that you will not stop trying—sending food and wheat."

From Nov. 1, 1941, to Nov. 1, 1942, $5,425.40 was given by the Congregational Christian Committee for War Victims and Services to Greek Releief. Two questions:

Was your contribution included in this gift?

What would you do if your child was among those condemned to die?

By MARY COXHEAD,
Member of the Conference Social Action Committee.

UNIT PLAN

Last reports from New York indicate very encouraging progress in the securing of funds for the continuance of the Original Plan Annuities. More than $96,000 was in hand toward the goal of $120,000. Although northern California was late in getting under way, the last report from our chairman, N. F. Sanderson of Martinez, indicates that 20 out of the 30 units assigned us have been covered. Readers of The Pacific who are interested in helping this worthy cause can write either to the Conference office or to N. F. Sanderson, Chairman, 1331 Court Street, Martinez, California.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 21, 1943—Annual Meeting of the Federation of Congregational Women, Plymouth Congregational Church, Oakland.

February 16-18—Pastoral Conference, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley.

March 10—Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent.

April 25—Easter Sunday.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALVARY. Rev. V. B. Amirkhanian recently made a trip to Los Angeles to solemnize the wedding ceremony for his daughter. The annual meeting of the church was a great success, pledges for the new year far exceeding those of the past. Every Sunday morning the names of the seventeen young men who are in the service are mentioned and prayer offered in their behalf.

SALIDA. On January 3, following the church service, forty adults remained for dinner and business meeting. Many were not present because of illness. A motto for the coming year was adopted: "Work, Fight, Give—Make Christianity Live." Practically all bills were paid and an increased amount had been given for benevolences and other good causes. Rev. Jessie G. Heath is pastor.

PETALUMA. The annual meeting of the church was held on December 9th. Reports for the year were presented and were encouraging. Financial obligations had been met in full, and the apportionment goal had been reached. A fine report was presented by the recently organized young people's group. Superintendent Harley H. Gill gave the address of the evening. Rev. T. T. Giffen is pastor.

SAN JOSE. A very attractive leaflet has been prepared, entitled "Our Church." It gives a bit of history, a statement of purpose, an introduction by the pastor, Rev. Stephen C. Peabody, and outlines the various organizations and activities. It is an excellent thing for people to hand to their friends or for general distribution.

RIPON. Through a gift from two devoted members, who prefer to remain anonymous, the church has a hundred copies of the hymnbook, "New Worship and Song." A large choir has been organized, with the music professor of the high school as director. Rev. A. C. Hacke is pastor.

CEDARVILLE. Rev. Stewart E. Locke, who has served as supply for the past six weeks, has found it necessary to return to his home at Lockeford, so at the present time this church is without a pastor. The church was crowded for the Christmas program.

LOLETA. For the first time in many years a benevolence contribution has come in from this church and Sunday School. This, of course, is through the efforts of Rev. Robert Whitaker of Ferndale, who is holding services and directing the Sunday School.

SAN FRANCISCO, CHINESE. The property occupied by this church at 21 Brenham Place has been deeded by the American Missionary Association to the Northern California Congregational Conference, which will hold it for the church.

SUISUN. Rev. Henry Stauffer continues his splendid leadership of this church. A class of new members has been received, and while there are many discouragements there has been a decided forward movement.

KENWOOD. This church received a bequest of $1,000 from the estate of a woman who was not a member of the church but had lived until about two years ago in the community. Rev. Frank E. Boren is pastor.

PRECIOUS PACKAGE

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Sill received a Christmas bundle labelled "Marilyn Jewel" on December 22, weighing seven lbs. Her arrival had been awaited with even greater expectancy by the whole Ocean View church. Pacific congratulates both church and parents.

WEAVERVILLE. A small increase in salary has been voted to Rev. P. N. Bennett, the pastor. Stormy weather held down attendance at the Sunday School Christmas program. A dramatic presentation was given by the Pilgrim Fellowship Sunday evening, the 20th. The attendance on Christmas Sunday was good. A fine group of young people have attended Saturday evening open house, which is meeting a real need. Motion picture show in the town has closed, and the only places for young people to gather are those in which liquor is sold.

PORTERVILLE. Ten new members were received and a baby baptized at the Christmas Sunday morning service. At five o'clock the church was ablaze with red candles lighted by sixteen girls of the Pilgrim Fellowship, wearing dark robes and new red stoles. An offering of more than $50 for war relief was received. On New Year's Day the pastor, Rev. Willis Goldsmith, assisted by five other pastors, held a service of prayer. The year 1942 was closed with all financial obligations met.

MARTINEZ. Since starting to share in the year of sacrificial giving for War Victims and Services, the Martinez Church has received and sent in to headquarters more than $160 in 1942—above the benevolence apportionment. Nearly $100 is already pledged for this purpose for 1943, as a result of presenting the cause on December 20, Christmas Sunday. The church ends the year with all bills paid. Rev. Veidette Walters is the pastor.

OAKLAND, PLYMOUTH. Eight regular members and four associates united with the church December 6. A special Christmas bulletin was dedicated to children's work in the church, announcing and explaining courses for all age groups, and introducing teachers and officers. The children's Christmas service was held on Christmas Sunday at the vesper hour, and included the pageant "Emanuel — God With Us." Rev. Robert Inglis is pastor.

CLOVERDALE. A movement is on foot which may result in the Congregational and Methodist Churches of the community worshipping together for the duration and sharing in the support of the pastor. Neither church desires to federate, but committees are at work on some kind of a plan which will make pastoral service in the community possible for the period of the war.

BERKELEY, ARLINGTON. While the director, Mr. Herbert Dimock, was recovering from a slight surgical operation, the Sunday morning services were cared for by Superintendent Gill and Dr. Anton Boisen of Pacific School of Religion. A community adult forum to be known as "Kensington Town Hall," is to be launched on January 12 under the sponsorship of the Board of Religious Education.

SEBASTOPOL. The story of the first Christmas was retold in music, pageantry and the spoken word on the evening of December 20. Mr. James P. Senter, the pastor, during December spoke at the grammar school P.-T.A. and at the Rotary Club. He has been invited to become a Rotarian.

OAKLAND, FRUITVALE. Christmas month, with appropriate services each Sunday, proved successful. The church met its apportionment in full and takes pride in its fulfillment of the requests made upon it by the fellowship of churches. Rev. J. B. Orr is pastor.

PESCADERO. Forty-two adults and children came through wind and rain to attend the Christmas party. The average congregation during the past month has been thirty. Mr. R. H. Watkins is serving as pastor.

FAIRFAX. The church Christmas program was well attended. The midnight Christmas Eve candlelight service was built around the theme, "The Light of the World," with a litany prepared by the pastor, Rev. W. W. Meyer. At midnight the Christmas candle was lighted with silent prayers of dedication. Pilgrim Fellowship made three separate tours of carol singing: to the County Home, a sanitarium, and an army camp, as well as to homes in Fairfax.

LODI, EBENEZER. The past year was epoch-making. Not only were all requirements to obtain a Building Society loan met, but also the installments on the same, and in addition a payment of $1000, leaving an indebtedness of only $850. In the past two years 105 new members were received. The church has voted to pay its per capita dues to the General Council, this being the first one of our German churches in California to take this step. Rev. F. W. Gross is pastor.

TULARE. Two splendid services made a memorable Christmas Sunday in this church, with large congregations enjoying a choir cantata in the morning, and the eighth candlelight service in the afternoon. Mrs. Arthur L. Rice, wife of the pastor, has been responsible for this service, which has become a fine tradition of the church and community and which has drawn many expressions of appreciation from members of other congregations, from men in the service, and from those who have now moved to other places.

BERKELEY, CHINESE. This church is showing splendid response to the leadership of Rev. Ivan Wong. Taxes on the property and the benevolence apportionment have been met in full, and this in spite of the fact that a large number of young men of the church have been called into the Service. A beautiful Christmas program followed the morning worship on December 20. Mr. Wong, the pastor, is enjoying the experience of working as a rigger on the swing shift of one of the Richmond shipyards.

OAKLAND, FIRST. Because of labor shortage a group of men gave a Saturday afternoon in doing needed work on the church grounds. On Christmas Sunday, the choir sang carols for ten minutes prior to the service on the steps of the church. Young people went carolling on Sunday evening to aged and sick members of the church. On Christmas Eve the choir sang carols at the Presidio in San Francisco. Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Reidenbach entertained the young people at the manse on Sunday evening, December 27.

BERKELEY, NORTH. Homecoming and the 50th anniversary of the church was celebrated on December 6. Following the morning service, when Rev. Pierson Parker, the pastor, preached, there was a dinner, and Superintendent Harley H. Gill was the speaker. Messages were read from former pastors and old-time members.

SAN FRANCISCO, GRACE UNITED. Two special Christmas services were held December 20, with lovely music by the adult, junior high, and junior choirs participating. Little children enacted the tableau of the Christmas story in front of an ornamental triptych. Eight new members recently came into fellowship during December. Rev. Donald F. Gaylord is pastor.

GUERNEVILLE. In spite of inclement weather and gas rationing, attendance during the month of December was good. At a church dinner, more than $100 was taken in for the re-building fund. Average attendance at young people's society for the month was 18. Mr. Alfred Focht is pastor.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

OROVILLE. Rev. Frank E. Carlson, D.D. for eight years the Superintendent of the Oregon Congregational Conference, has accepted the call to the pastorate of this church, and will begin March 1. Dr. Carlson has not reached retirement age, but through his own choice is returning to the pastorate after a very fruitful period of years as superintendent, during which time the Oregon Conference has made significant advance in many directions. He was pastor at Pocatello, Idaho; Portland, Oregon; and Olympia, Washington, prior to his superintendency. So he comes to Oroville with a wealth of experience and a record of splendid achievement. Mrs. Carlson is a valuable helpmeet. There are four children, two daughters who are still at home, a son, Robert, who is a student at Pacific School of Religion and youth assistant at Oakland, Plymouth, and an older son who is in China as a representative of Oberlin.

The women of the Oroville church had a splendid Christmas bazaar and dinner. At the Church School Christmas program an offering was taken for the Committee for Assistance to War Victims and Services. It was a very impressive program with a beautiful manger scene. Mr. Clemmer Wise, former Methodist minister, is serving as director of religious education.

REDWOOD CITY. Despite food and gas rationing, a larger number than usual attended the Sunday School Christmas tree and entertainment, and a crowded auditorium greeted the Christmas music festival on December 13, given jointly by the Congregational, Methodist and Baptist churches. The various organizations are trying to work out 1943 plans that will not be too much dependent on dinners and teas but that will fully recognize the growing necessity of groups coming together in suburban life. Subscriptions for 1943 have been well paid up, and new talent for the officiary of the coming year is being secured by the nominating committee. Rev. Charles E. Ward is pastor.

SACRAMENTO. The A Capella Choir of Sacramento Senior High School shared in the beautiful candlelight service of the Mayflower Club, December 13. Programs have been re-arranged so that for the duration the Sunday School will meet at the same time as the regular church service. A branch Sunday School for children of the Riverside area is to begin early in January at 4 p. m. Rev. Torrance Phelps is the pastor. The Sacramento interdenominational Leadership Training School is to have as its dean Mr. George I. Linn, for the past two years director of the Lakewood Young People's Conference.

LODI, FIRST. The four Sundays in December were devoted to sacrificial giving in the Sunday School. A total of $130 was gathered for missions, China Relief, the American Bible Society, and the relief of war victims. The budget for the new year has been pledged in full, voluntarily. Members of the Congregational and Methodist churches, with two young Chinese people, gave Dorothy Clarke Wilson's "White Christmas" in two performances to audiences totaling 800. Rev. A. R. Boone directed the production. An offering of $60 for China Relief was received.

SANTA CRUZ. Gas rationing did not affect attendance at the Christmas Sunday morning service, which was the largest since the coming of the pastor, Rev. H. S. Mahood. The pastor's son, a student for the ministry, presided at the afternoon vesper musical service. Thirty parents were present at the beginners' and cradle-roll Christmas party. Each department of the school had its own Christmas observance.

ALAMEDA. Christmas Sunday was a great day, beginning with a special program in the Sunday School, when an offering of nearly $18 was received for War Victims and Services. At the morning service among many visitors were Rev. and Mrs. Gail Cleland, who had been transferred from Camp Adair, Oregon, and were en route to the port of embarkation at New Orleans. One Alameda boy, in the Merchant Marine, was home after a harrowing experience at sea in which he had spent thirty hours in the water after his ship was torpedoed. It was a real Christmas reunion for that family. Mother Whitman, beloved in the church and throughout a wider circle, passed away quietly just before Christmas after a brief illness. She had been a member of the church for 53 years. On Christmas Sunday evening, "Why the Chimes Rang" was presented in a very impressive manner. In spite of gas and food rationing the bi-monthly potluck suppers show a good attendance and splendid interest. Rev. Ralph V. Conard, the pastor, was chaplain at the Young People's Midwinter Conference.

ANTIOCH. The commission from the U. S. Army has been received by Rev. Wm. R. Steininger, who will close his work at Antioch to become chaplain about January 22. He will go at once to the chaplains' training school at Harvard University. Mrs. Steininger and their son Dick will remain in Antioch for the time being. Mr. Steininger is remarkably well equipped for the work among young men of the Service. He has been a leader in the community in providing a social center for the soldiers of Camp Stoneman. For some years he was director of Congregational student work at the University of Washington. He has served on various committees for the Northern California Conference, and will be missed not only in Antioch but in our entire fellowship.

EUREKA. A church nursery school has been organized to enable parents, teachers, and guardians to remain for the church service. Members of the Pilgrim Fellowship are volunteering to care for the children. The church is still remembering with pleasure the visit of Miss Isabel Hemingway. The church provided a Christmas "fairyland," open for four days from two to five, that children might come and enter into the spirit of Christmas. The children were featured in the Christmas Sunday morning broadcast over the local radio station. Rev. Charles H. Hudson is pastor.

RENO, NEVADA. Seven children were baptized on Christmas Sunday. This church sponsors an annual appreciation dinner for the choir as a token of gratitude for faithful and beautiful service. New Year's Day service was held at nine and again at eleven. Thus did the church under the leadership of Rev. William Moll Case, pastor, respond to the suggestion of making that day a day of prayer.

BERKELEY, FIRST. Fifteen children were baptized on Christmas Sunday morning. Mrs. Elizabeth C. Biedenbach has become the church secretary, replacing Miss Eleanor Breed, who has resigned in order to do newspaper work on the staff of the San Francisco Chronicle. Rev. Vere V. Loper's Sunday evening hours over KRE are becoming increasingly popular.

OAKLAND, PILGRIM. Rev. and Mrs. Harvey Miller spent Christmas with their son at the Santa Ana Air Base, where he is taking pre-flight training. Rev. Arthur T. Davies cared for the services on the 27th. Four new amber windows have been placed in the front of the church.

SOQUEL. The Christmas season was observed with two special features, a cantata presented by the girls' choir supplemented by tableaux of the Nativity scenes. A vesper service was held at which was presented amplified recordings of "The Messiah." Dramatized worship services centered around the Nativity scene were carried out during the month in the church school. Under the direction of the religious education committee a dinner was given to the girls' choir in appreciation of their services. A folk dancing group has been organized, which includes many middle-aged couples. It is proving a fine "mixer" and enjoyable social function. A forum program on race relations with the use of motion pictures for Sunday evenings is being outlined. Rev. T. Davis Preston, pastor, reminds the people of the area that folks accustomed to driving to Santa Cruz to church might find it advantageous to attend the "little white church in the vale," nearer at hand.

SAN MATEO. A beautiful Christmas vesper service of music was held on Christmas Sunday, followed by an informal tea and a party for the children. The church school presented a special program during the morning. The Congregational Community Club, the women's organization, closed a fine year of service with a substantial balance in its treasury. In addition to contributing some $600 to the church budget, they aided the Red Cross, USO, and Japanese evacuees, as well as distributing food and clothing, and sharing generously in missionary giving, during the year just closed. Laymen cooperated enthusiastically and effectively in the "war-time every-member canvass," with splendid results. Rev. Sidney H. Buckham, the pastor, was Director of the Pilgrim Fellowship Mid-winter Conference.

SAN CARLOS. December was without question the high water mark in the life of this church. There were more than 100 in the cast that rendered the beautiful pageant of the Nativity story which was staged in the City Hall. Even then 100 persons stood in the vestibule and many were turned away. At the Christmas surprise party, the pastor, Rev. H. J. Loken, and his wife were given a "sock" containing over $90. The income of the church for the past year, including building fund, averaged more than $1000 a month. The church received 49 new members, and the Sunday School more than doubled.

CALAVERAS COUNTY. Rev. John G. Dickey, pastor, sent Christmas letters to all of the boys in the Service from both churches—Angels Camp and Murphys. There were splendid Christmas programs which drew large attendance. Mr. Dickey serves as air raid warden, member of the price and rationing board, and takes part in many other community activities. Recently he was instrumental in getting a piano for the White Pines Community House, which will make it available for Sunday School and church services as well.

BENICIA. Nine young people attended the Pilgrim Fellowship Conference, as did also the pastor, Rev. Isaac Fleming, and the director of religious education, Miss Grace Kendrick. There was a splendid attendance at the Christmas pageant entitled "Adoration of the Kings and Shepherds." The offering of more than $24 was for war victims and services.

OAKLAND, BETHANY. A splendid Christmas pageant was given by the Sunday School, and the whole day, the Sunday before Christmas, was full of activity with an atmosphere of worship and praise. Rev. M. M. Aijian is pastor.

FRESNO, FIRST. In a quiet canvass the resources of the church have been increased by $1,500. The budget for the coming year has been covered, an accumulated deficit has been wiped out, and the increased goal for benevolences will be reached. Thirty-four members were received into the church on Christmas Sunday, which brings the total to 80 for the year. Congregations have been large, reaching almost 300 on Christmas Sunday. The morning attendance for the first month of gas rationing averaged 208, an increase over other months. Christmas letters from the church and cards from the pastor, Rev. John H. Gregg, and his family were sent to the fifty-five men and one woman who are in the armed forces. The minister spoke during December to the Rotary Club, the Y.W.C.A., the Exchange Club, the Engineers Club, and gave a series of radio talks on how to have a happy new year.

SAN FRANCISCO, FIRST. Through the heroic efforts of Mr. Lesley R. Jackson, a splendid corps of teachers has been enlisted and a surprisingly fine attendance of children is being had at the Church School. There was a splendid Christmas program, with gifts for the children and gifts from the children for those in need. There were large congregations at the church services on Christmas Sunday, with a great deal of excellent music. The Sunday morning Bible class under the direction of Rev. D. C. Williams, the Thursday midweek services with special speakers arranged by Rev. G. Austin Charnock, the young people's society on Sunday evenings, together with the two services of worship, make a well rounded church program in the heart of our great city. Rev. Jason Noble Pierce is pastor.

RIO VISTA. The two churches, Congregational and Baptist, have opened up comfortable quarters in their buildings with games, writing tables, entertainments and other suitable interests for the State Guardsmen who are quartered in the town. Seventy-five were present on the evening the Congregational building was opened. Refreshments were served. Rev. E. T. Sherman and Mrs. Sherman held open house on New Year's Day. Members of the choir assisted in serving the guests. Because high school was in session, only two delegates, together with the pastor, attended the Pilgrim Fellowship Conference.

SAN FRANCISCO, OCEAN VIEW. A contest, taking into account enrollment and attendance, is to be held between the Sunday School of this church and that of the First Congregational Church, beginning early in January. Two of the young men who are now in the Service were home for morning worship on the last Sunday of December, when the Rev. G. Austin Charnock conducted communion service. Mr. Eugene Sill, the pastor, preached the Christmas sermon.

FOWLER. Rev. A. A. Goergizian, who has been pastor of this church for a number of years, has been called to the Ararat Congregational Church of Salem Depot, N. H., and is now in the east at his new post of labor. The Fowler church has not yet made its choice of a new minister. During his first year in California Mr. Goergizian was ad interim pastor of the Pilgrim Church in Fresno.

STOCKTON. This church makes the Christmas Eve candle-light service the most beautiful occasion of the year, with traditional music, Gospel story, and Christmas prayers. The Christmas sermon subject of Rev. Noel J. Breed was "The Divided Welcome."

WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

Edited by Miss Helen M. Perkins

ANNUAL MEETING

There are a number of important pieces of information regarding the coming Annual Meeting given in this column. It is hoped that all readers will take note of these and pass them on to those (if any) who do not see "The Pacific."

First, the place: The meeting will be held at the Plymouth Church, Oakland, 3805 Piedmont Ave. The Piedmont Avenue cars go right past the door.

Second, date and time: The date is January 21, Thursday, and the sessions commence at 10:00 a. m. Please note particularly two departures from the usual custom. Due to the now familiar transportation difficulties, the meeting will last one day only, instead of two as formerly, and that day is the time of our usual monthly meetings. Since there will be so much to be packed into a one-day session, the morning session will open at 10:00, promptly, instead of 10:30.

Third: Luncheon will be served by the ladies of the hostess church. BUT, as every housewife knows, the securing of materials for a luncheon is much more difficult now, and may require shopping about in a great many different places. Therefore, the ladies are asking that if it is a possible thing, all reservations be in by MONDAY, January 18. At the outside, the dead-line is noon of Tuesday; and noon means twelve o'clock, not six in the evening. Reservations should be mailed to Mrs. Theodore Wilson, 354 Fiftieth Street, Oakland, or telephoned to the church office, PIedmont 5300. Price of the luncheon will be 75 cents.

Fourth, Program: The Program Committee has been working hard for some time on plans for the meeting, but these are not entirely completed. It is difficult to contact people at the holiday season. The Committee will make every effort to have programs in your hands before the meeting, but if they are not able to do this, keep this advance notice in The Pacific. If you do receive programs, please be sure to bring your program with you to the meeting, as the Federation is trying to "cut corners" in expense as well as in other ways, and will limit the number of programs printed.

The morning meeting will be taken up with reports of officers and secretaries and with business. The chief items of business will be the presentation of the report of the Nominating Committee, and the election and installation of officers. This will be followed by the President's address. The afternoon session will include reports of the Presidents of Associations, and the speaker of the day who is expected to tell us of the work of the A.W.V.S.—the American Women's Volunteer organization. The day will be closed with a devotional service by Rev. Vere V. Loper, based on one of those used at the Council at Durham, and which all our delegates spoke of with so much appreciation.

Two interesting reports from Associations, which had to be excluded for lack of room, or because of late arrival, from earlier issues of The Pacific, the editor is glad to share with you now.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

From the Santa Clara Association we learn that besides the handkerchief shower already mentioned, boxes of mounted pictures and cards were sent to Cotton Valley School in Alabama, the Congregational Hospital at Grants, New Mexico; Pleasant Hill Academy, the Campbell Folk School and Trinity School, and to Mrs. Jennie Pratt at Ellis Island. In addition, $12.00 was sent to Greek Relief and China Relief.

The San Joaquin Valley Association held its "rally" considerably later than the others, and the report of it is very welcome now. Mrs. W. F. Tidyman, Association President, writes that it was one of the best meetings they have ever had, and that the women of the Valley are becoming increasingly Association—and Federation—minded. The daily papers found it interesting enough to be given considerable space in their columns. One report said: "Congregational Churches of the San Joaquin Valley, though few in number, sent large delegations to the annual Fall Women's Rally which was held in the Porterville Congregational Church. Over a hundred sat down at the noon luncheon, which was served at four long tables decorated with fruits, vegetables, foliage, and flowers. Mrs. Tidvman presided and Mrs. Scott Haymond of Berkeley (President of the Women's Federation) and Miss Pattie Lee Coghill of New York were the chief speakers. Mrs. Arthur Rice of Tulare led the morning devotions and Mrs. Willis Goldsmith had charge of the afternoon worship service." The article then goes on to speak of Miss Coghill's message, which appealed as it did to all of us who were fortunate enough to hear her.

Let us hope that the fine attendance of the women at the San Joaquin meeting may be multiplied throughout all our Associations at our Federation Annual Meeting. Just because of the many difficulties in the way in these strenuous times, may we make a special effort to be present and enjoy all the Program Committee has planned for us. And please re-read the first of this article and remember particularly the opening hour—10:00, not 10:30, and the reservation dead-line: Tuesday, January 19, by 12:00 noon.

OVERSEAS NEWS

At the November meeting of the Federation, in the report of Mrs. Ernest Evans, Foreign Field Secretary, were the following interesting items:

"Mrs. James A. Hunter, whose husband succeeded in reaching Free China some time last summer, has shared with us letters from him telling of his trip and conditions in Chungking. Round trip correspondence with Peking through Free China has been accomplished. A letter from Hugh Hubbard, written July 25, was received in Boston October 9. This was in reply to a letter from the American Board under date of April 8, which was received in Peking July 14. In this letter he spoke of the illness of Dr. Fritz Baumgarten, who did such fine work at Tehsien. He had set up practice in Tientsin and was just beginning to acquire a following when a spot was found in one of his lungs, not serious, but enough to necessitate four or five months' rest. That enforced rest must be nearly over by this time. Being a German citizen, he need not be evacuated.

"From Manila Mrs. Earle Ballou has word from her husband who says they are all in good health. The missionaries were interned at first, but on January 15 were released. Dr. Robinson and Valley Nelson were asked to remain in the internment camp and had done so. Alice Huggins was living in a boarding house about a mile away. The Noltings of India remained in the camp on their own initiative. Mr. Hubbard's letter was written July 25. All the Protestant denominations in North China have united along the lines of the plan of the church organization in Japan. They are not permitted to have any connection with American funds or personnel. Hugh Hubbard writes: 'They are getting along quite well considering everything. Of course, there are grave problems of finance and leadership to meet and solve at such a time.'"

THE CALL OF DESTINY

A segment of Eternity
Is nineteen hundred forty-three,
Which beckons to an open door
Whose threshold none has crossed before.
All hail the chance to serve and grow
And feel the warmth of friendship's glow!
The coming year may bring the chance
To share the thrill of high romance;
When warring armies are arrayed,
Momentous watersheds are made;
A world distraught for freedom yearns,
In hope forlorn to us it turns;
The starving millions must be fed,
And who but we can give them bread?
Because we hold enormous power
We face unsought this crucial hour;
We must not fail our brave allies,
We must not shirk grim sacrifice;
Our year of destiny has come;
The friendly stars are our allies
And shout approval from the skies;
We must unite and do our best
And so survive this fateful test!

—HENRY STAUFFER.

REV. C. W. PRESTON

Rev. Charles Warren Preston passed away at the State Hospital at Ukiah on December 28. For many years he had been retired and hence was not widely known in our Conference. He was born in Ohio in 1851, graduated from Iowa State University in 1882, and from Yale Seminary in 1885. He served a church in Gilian, Conn., and then for twenty-five years he was in Nebraska at various points and did work among the Indians in North Dakota and Oklahoma. After a pastorate in Oregon he came to California in 1915 to the Todd Church at Santa Rosa, and a year later moved to Cazadero, where for a time he was in charge of a Methodist circuit. His life companion, whom he married in 1890, passed away in 1941. Funeral services were held on December 31 in Sebastopol by Mr. James P. Senter. Interment was in the Sebastopol cemetery.

REV. RICHARD C. DAY

Rev. Richard C. Day passed away in Pasadena on January 8, 1943. He had suffered from heart trouble intermittently for more than a year, but carried on his work at Niles until the first of June, last. He was born October 26, 1873. He followed in the footsteps of his father, the Rev. W. C. Day, as a minister. He was a graduate from Pacific School of Religion and served three churches in Oregon and Washington, and after coming to California was pastor at Loomis, Hayward, Sonoma, and Niles. At each place he was and is greatly beloved. He and his wife, who passed away two or three years ago, were a devoted partnership in the cause of Christ. He is survived by a son living in Denver, a daughter in Pasadena, and a sister in Oakland. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Clarence Reidenbach and Superintendent Gill at the Chapel of the Chimes on January 11.

PARENTAL PRIDE

Friends of Superintendent and Mrs. Harley H. Gill may be interested in the following chronicle of events in their family during recent weeks:

Married, on November 2, 1942, at Columbia, South Carolina, Elizabeth Pearl Gill to Technical Sergeant Stanley M. Honer of the United States Air Forces.

Ordained to the Congregational ministry at Raymond, New Hampshire, on December 18, 1942, Sumner H. Gill, graduate of Stanford University and Andover Newton Theological School.

Ordained to the Congregational ministry at Brookline, Mass., on Sunday, January 3, 1943, Clayton H. Gill, graduate of College of Pacific and Chicago Theological Seminary, and Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army, Dr. Charles C. Gill, now located at Camp Pickett, Virginia.

FROM JAPANESE FRIENDS

The Conference office hears regularly from the Japanese pastors and from some of the lay people who are in the relocation centers. For the most part, they are enjoying reasonably good health, and they are finding more than enough to do. One minister recently had a breakdown as a result of work in preparing for the Christmas activities. The Board of Home Missions is now preparing to take over responsibility, meeting the salaries of our Congregational ministers on the same level as the payments by the Government for other lines of work within the camps. A Christmas gift was sent from our emergency fund to each one of our Japanese pastors.

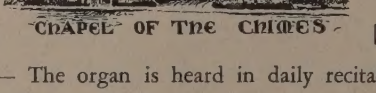
PLYMOUTH HOUSE

On five Sunday evenings the young people at Plymouth House studied various religions, with splendid addresses on Buddhism, Confucianism, Mohammedanism, and Hinduism. On Christmas Eve the young people sang carols at various homes in the parish. At 10 o'clock they gathered for refreshments, and at 11 adjourned for the Christmas Eve candlelight service in the church. Many young people were in the choir of 79 voices.

The Pacific goes to press before the deadline of receipts on apportionment and the women's Thank Offeffring. Church by church reports for both funds will appear in the February issue.

PACIFIC SCHOOL of RELIGION
PREPARES for the RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS
BERKELEY. CALIFORNIA

The Way of Beauty - Economy and Peaceful Memory



Cremation With Inurnment

Three fine chapels — The organ is heard in daily recitals over KRE.
Terraced Indoor Columbarium Gardens—under perpetual care and cheerful with sunshine, flowers, and bird songs.
An efficient staff — offering kind and courteous service

CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES
4499 PIEDMONT AVENUE — OAKLAND
Direction LAWRENCE F. MOORE
Visitors welcome daily, 9 to 5